

# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 153

22p

## the STAR DESTROYERS

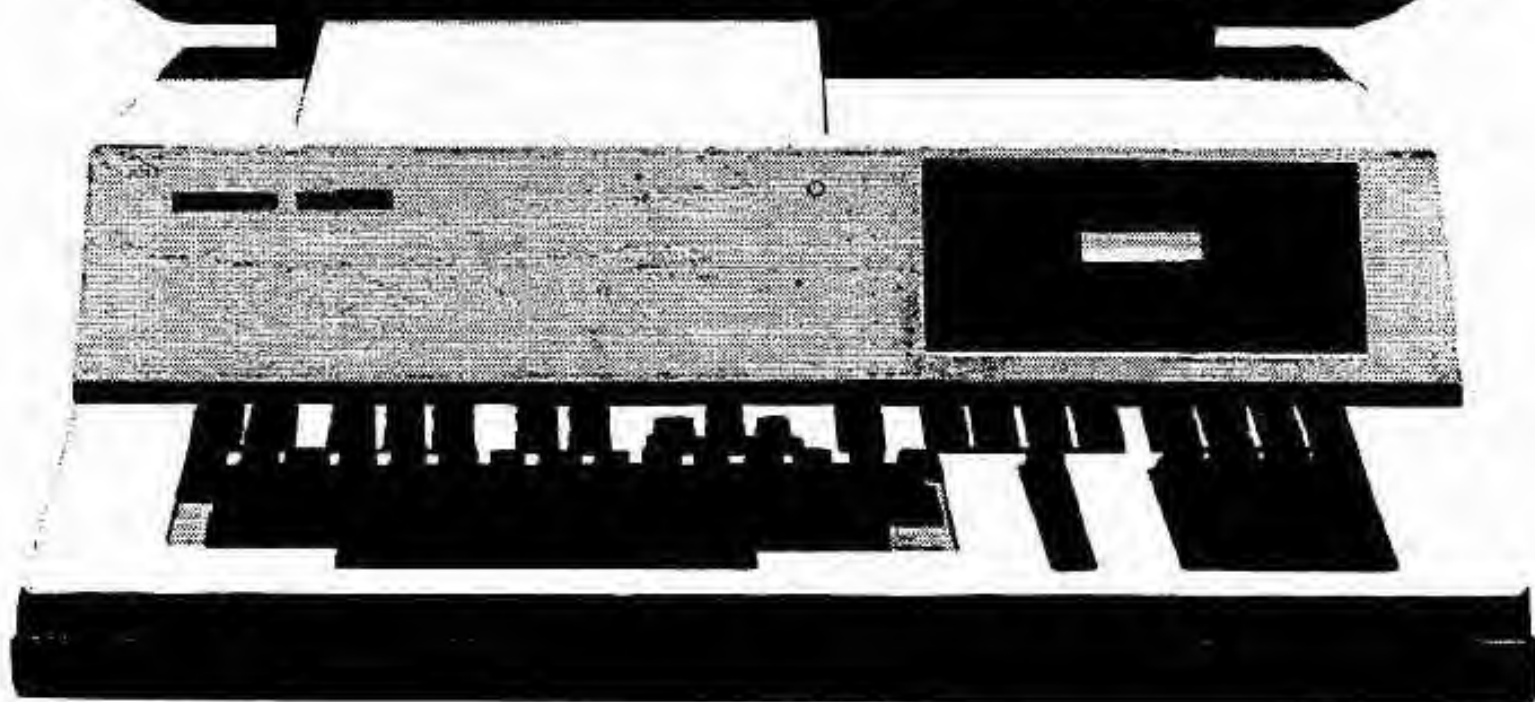


A COLONISED WORLD SUDDENLY  
GOES NOVA, AND A SOLITARY CRAFT  
FLEES BEFORE THE HEAVING TIDE OF  
DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY. IT MUST  
ESCAPE OR EARTH IS DOOMED!



# STARBLAZER

**The Galaxy is so vast and wide  
that incidents occur nobody  
ever knows about. When a star  
went nova in Zygmia sector,  
destroying a World and its  
people, Earth colonists on the  
far flung planets went about  
their daily tasks unaware of the  
fate of their fellow colonists . . .  
until a craft escaped from a  
second energy release, with the  
dire warning. BEWARE . . .**



# THE STAR DESTROYERS

FROM THE STAR THRAX, IN  
THE SAGGITARIUS SECTOR,  
A SOLAR FLARE SUDDENLY  
BURST FORTH.

HOW SPECTACULAR!





... BUT THE SUN EXPLODED, SENDING OUT ITS WAVES OF DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY AT  
INCREDIBLE SPEEDS.

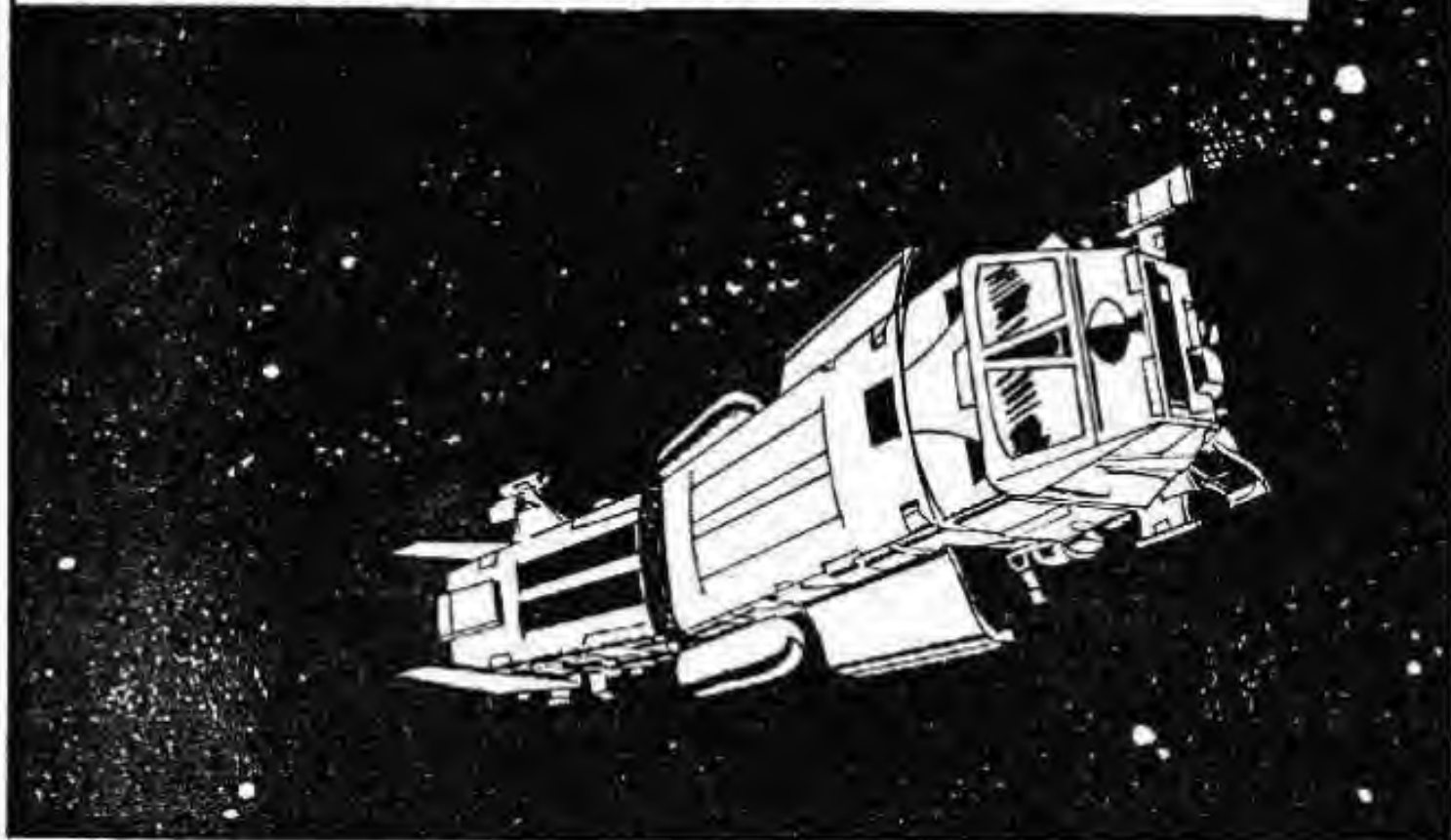




THRAX II DIED, AND WITH IT PERISHED A BILLION PEOPLE.



A THOUSAND PARSECS DISTANT IN THE ORION ARM, PREY TO SPACE HIJACKERS, A MAIL SHIP PLIED ITS DANGEROUS TRADE BETWEEN THE STARS.



BUT THE MAIL SHIP WAS NOT ALONE.

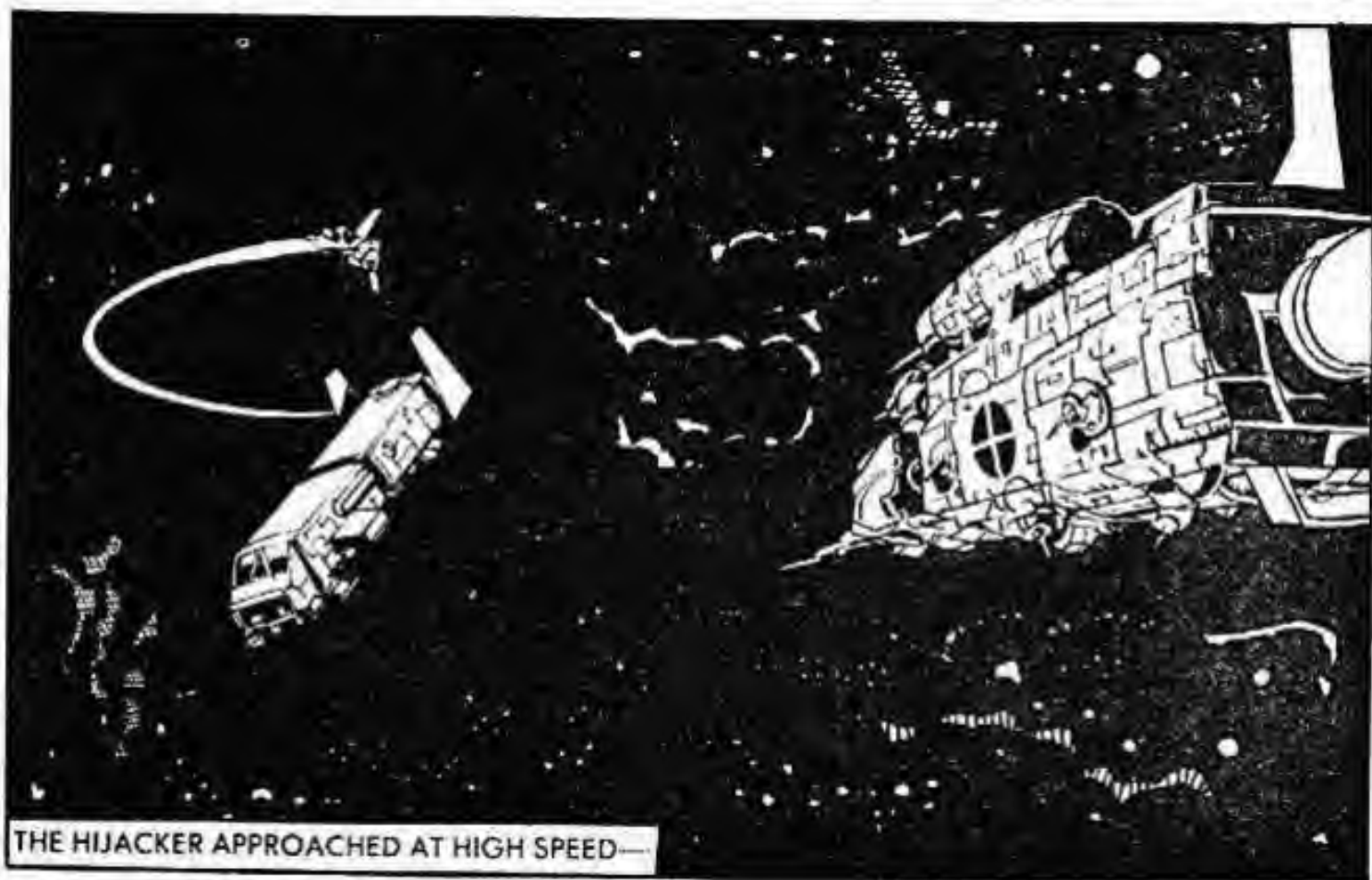


AGENT AL TAHER OF THE GALACTIC PATROL WAS ON STATION WITHIN THE MAIL SHIP'S FORCE FIELD.

IS THAT A HIJACKER'S SHIP, TACS?

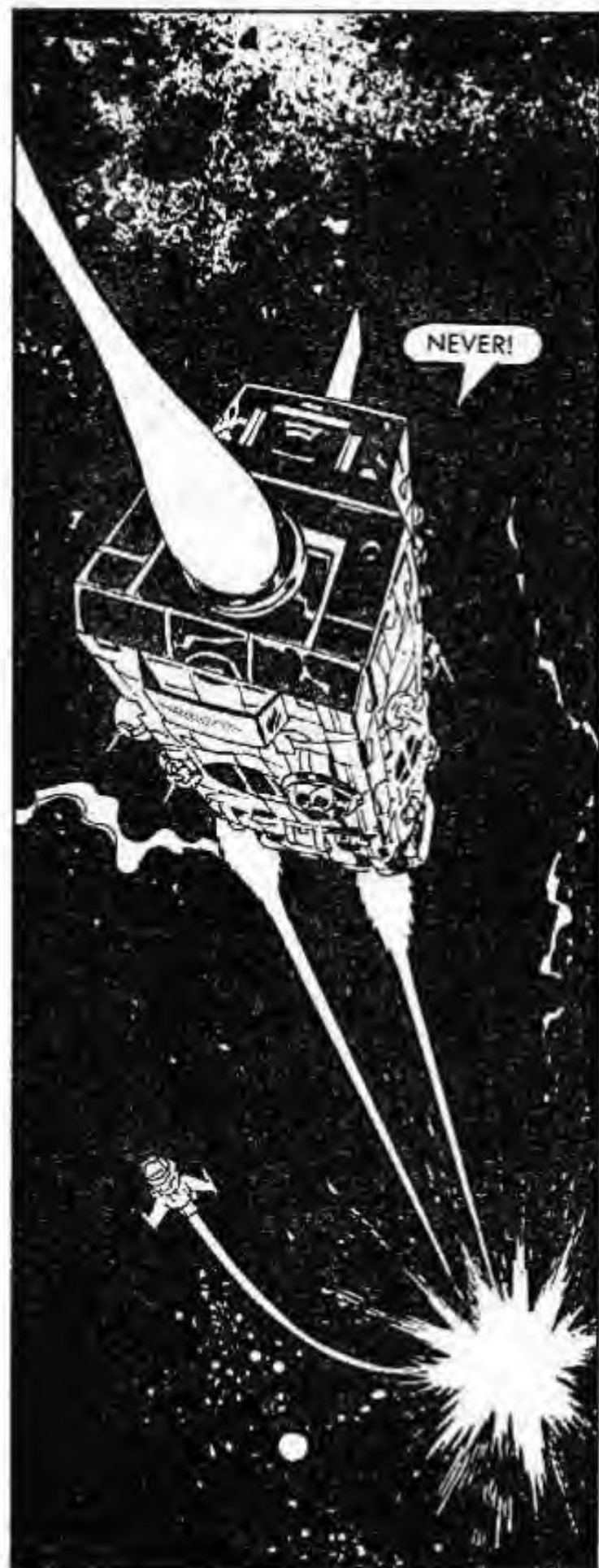
THE PROBABILITY IS 97.38 PER CENT.

TACS WAS THE TACTICAL ACTION COMPUTER SYSTEM, THE SHIP'S FIGHTING COMPUTER.



THE HIJACKER APPROACHED AT HIGH SPEED—







A PRIORITY MESSAGE IS  
COMING IN FROM HQ.

RECORD IT! WE'VE AN EVEN HIGHER  
PRIORITY TO WORRY ABOUT AT THIS  
MOMENT.



TAHER LINED UP HIS PHOTON TRACE, AND ONCE LOCKED ON THE TARGET, HE SQUEEZED THE  
FIRING ACTIVATOR—









INTERSTELLA WAS A CITY BUILT BETWEEN THE STARS AND THE HOME OF GALACTIC PATROL. IT TOOK TAHER ONLY MOMENTS TO HYPER JUMP THERE.



TAHER DISEMBARKED AND MADE HIS WAY TO HIS RENDEZVOUS—





10  
TAFER WAS MET BY HIS SUPERIOR, LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIAN MITCHELL—

WHERE'S THE GENERAL? I  
THOUGHT IT WAS A CRISIS.

IT IS AND HE'LL SEE YOU SHORTLY,  
BUT FOR NOW COME WITH ME.



THEY HEADED FOR THE CITY'S HEART.

FIRST A VISIT TO THE ARMOURER AND  
HAVE YOUR PERSONAL WEAPONRY  
BROUGHT UP TO DATE.



IN A LABORATORY DEEP UNDERGROUND—

I DON'T FEEL A THING.

NEVERTHELESS A TINY LASER CANNON HAS BEEN  
IMPLANTED INTO YOUR FOREFINGER. IT FIRES ON  
BACKWARD PRESSURE AND DRAWS ITS ENERGY FROM  
YOUR BODY—SO DON'T OVER-USE IT!

TRY IT!

IT WORKS! SO TELL ME ABOUT  
THE CRISIS, MITCH.





THE GENERAL WILL INFORM YOU  
HIMSELF. HE'S IN THE BATTLE COMPUTER  
SECTION.



IN THE BATTLE COMPUTER SECTION

THAT WAS THE STAR THRAX. IT WENT  
NOVA WITHOUT WARNING, TAKING A  
BILLION PEOPLE WITH IT.



THERE HAVE BEEN NATURAL NOVAE  
BEFORE, GENERAL.





HOW DO YOU EVACUATE THAT  
MANY PEOPLE? ALL I CAN DO IS TO  
ASK YOU TO GO THERE AND DO  
SOMETHING.



THANKS, GENERAL.




GOOD LUCK!

I MIGHT JUST NEED IT!




TEN UNITS LATER TAHER ARRIVED AT XEROS III.



THE STAR LOOKS ALL  
RIGHT, TACS.

AFFIRMATIVE! SPECTROGRAPHIC  
ANALYSIS SHOWS IT PERFECTLY  
NORMAL AT THIS TIME. SO AS  
ORDERED, I AM COMMENCING  
LANDING SEQUENCE.

TAHER WAS MET PRIVATELY BY THE  
PLANETARY GOVERNOR.



INTERSTELLA HAS INFORMED ME  
FULLY, AGENT TAHER. IS THERE  
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

YES... REQUISITION ALL DEEP-SPACE  
VEHICLES! I'M GOING TO LOOK  
AROUND.



TAFER BEGAN HIS INVESTIGATION IN THE  
TAFER SPACEPORT PRECINCT.



AS TAFER LOOKED AROUND—

THAT'S THE ONE, TOLLO.

YEAH, THOUGH HE DOESN'T  
LOOK VERY DANGEROUS TO ME.



THE PLOT THICKENS — THESE TWO  
HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN WELL BRIEFED  
ABOUT ME.



TAFER ACTIVATED HIS ELECTRON HALO WHICH  
WAS FITTED TO HIS ARM —



THE INCREASED POWER GIVEN TO TAFER'S ARM  
PROVED TOO MUCH FOR HIS ASSAILANTS.



THE REMAINING THUG PULLED OUT A LASER-KNIFE.

DIE — OUTWORLDER!

NO, THANK YOU!



A STRAIGHT-FINGERED JAB SENT THE THUG REELING —

CURSE YOU,  
OUTWORLDER.





TAHER MADE HIS WAY TO THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY —





TAFER CREPT IN AN UNGUARDED SIDE DOOR.

SO FAR,  
SO GOOD.

LEAVE NOW! I WILL  
PREPARE THE PROJECTILE.

YES, SIR.

GREAT SPACE! THEY'VE REPLACED  
THE TELESCOPE WITH A TELEPORT  
MACHINE!



HELLO, AGAIN, GOVERNOR. I THINK YOU SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF UNDER ARREST.



YOU!



YOU'VE BEEN CLEVER, TAHER, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. THE MAGISTER VONOI HAS ORDAINED THAT XEROS WILL EXPLODE, AND WHAT THE MAGISTER DECREES...



THE GOVERNOR ATTACKED WITH SUDDEN FURY.

THE VONANS ACCOMPLISH!





FINGERS LIKE STEEL CLAMPS CLASPED TAHER'S THROAT —

SEE, THE MAGISTER  
IS NEVER WRONG!



THERE'S ALWAYS  
A FIRST TIME!



THE GOVERNOR WAS REVEALED FOR WHAT HE WAS —



GREAT SPACE! HIS FACE HAS COME AWAY IN MY HANDS — IT'S A MASK!

TAFER BEGAN TO FIT THINGS TOGETHER —

THE VONOI HAVE ALWAYS BEEN JEALOUS OF EARTH'S POSITION.



A NEUTRONIUM BOMB! THE TELEPORT  
MACHINE FLINGS IT INTO SPACE, AND  
THE QUARK DRIVE ROCKETS INTO THE  
STAR!

TAFER EXAMINED  
THE TELEPORT —

BUT THE VONOI MASK WAS NOT ORDINARY —

RETURN ... RETURN ...




SLOWLY SUFFOCATING WITHOUT HIS BIO-CHIPPED MASK, THE VONAN AGENT STRETCHED OUT FOR HIS SALVATION.




I HAVE IT!



THE VONAN WAS WHOLE AGAIN —



THERE'S NO WAY TO DISARM THE BOMB OR ALTER ITS DESTINATION. I'D BETTER DESTROY THE TELEPORT MACHINE.



FOOL! THE PLANS OF THE MAGISTER ARE NEVER DEFEATED!

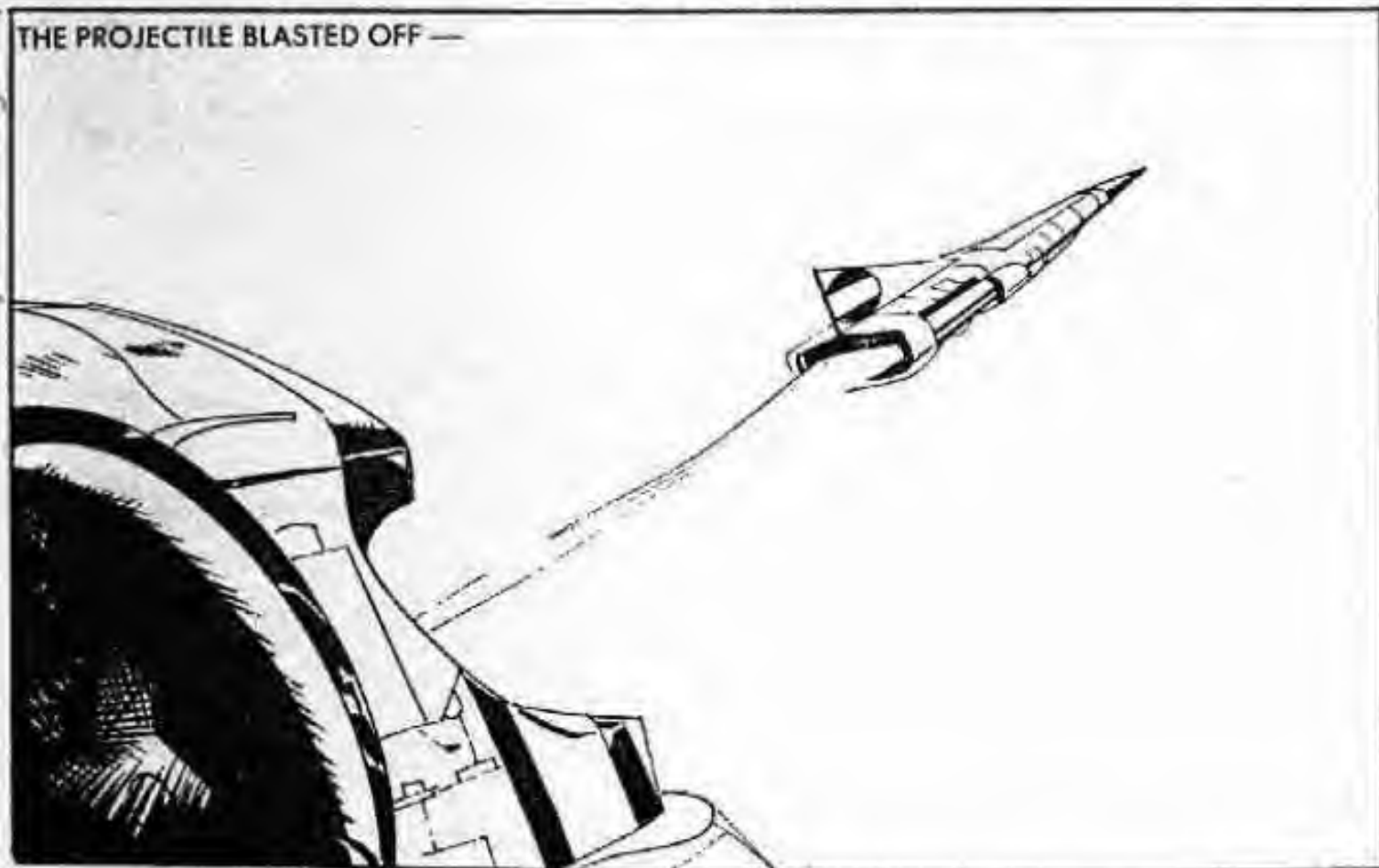
BLACK HOLES OF DENEBI!

TAFER WAS SEALED IN THE PROJECTILE —

ORION'S HULKS! THE MADMAN'S  
STARTED THE LAUNCHING SEQUENCE!



THE PROJECTILE BLASTED OFF —





I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS PROJECTILE  
REACHING THE STAR XEROS — AND  
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY!

TAFER TURNED HIS IMPLANT LASER ON THE  
CONTROLS...

AT LEAST I WON'T FEEL  
ANYTHING WHEN THE BOMBS GO OFF!

BUT THE LASER BLAST FLUNG THE PROJECTILE  
OFF COURSE —

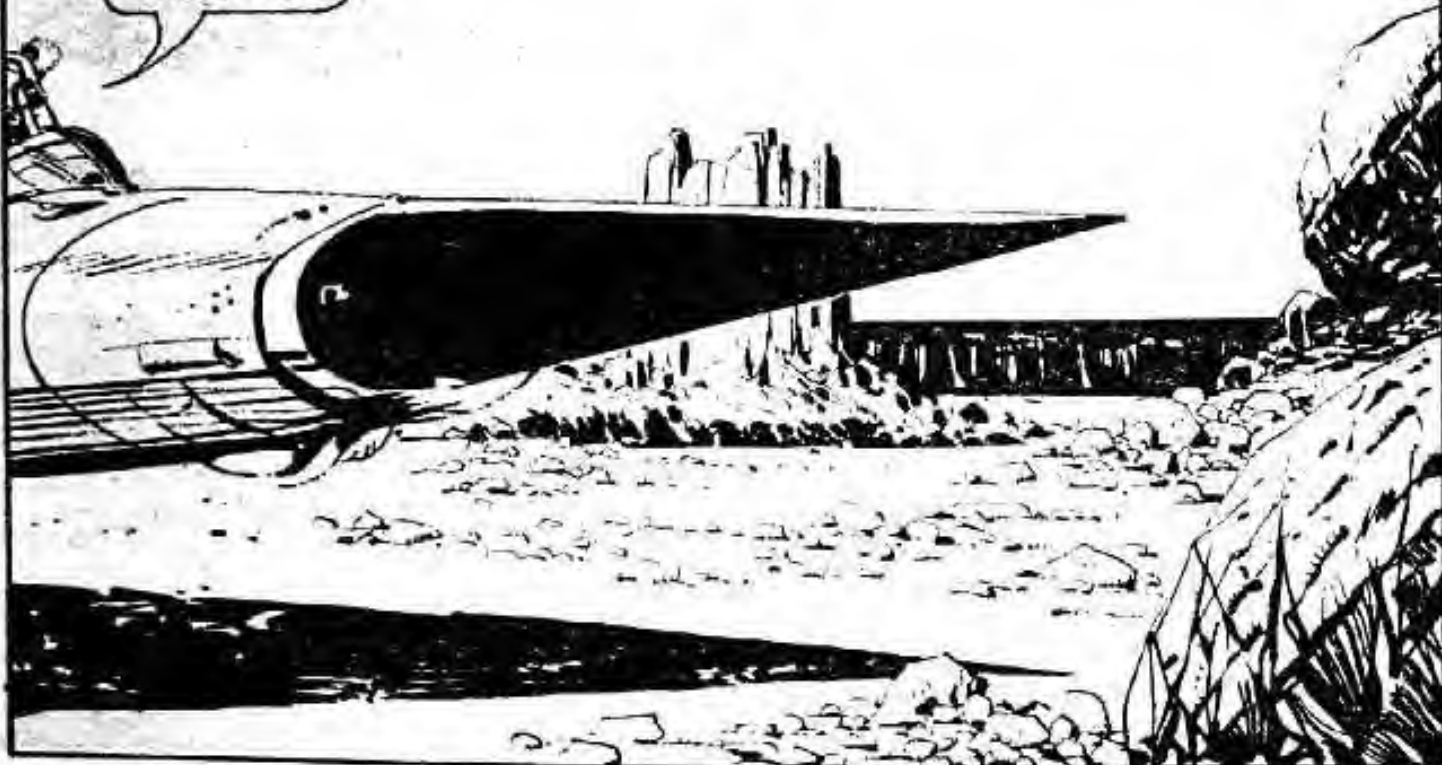
HYPERSPACE!

INSTANTS LATER, A MILLION PARSECS DISTANT, THE PROJECTILE CAME TO LAND ON A STRANGE PLANET —



TAFER FORCED OPEN THE PROJECTILE MONOLOCK.

WHERE AM I?



IT WAS A WORLD WITHOUT PLANT LIFE . . .







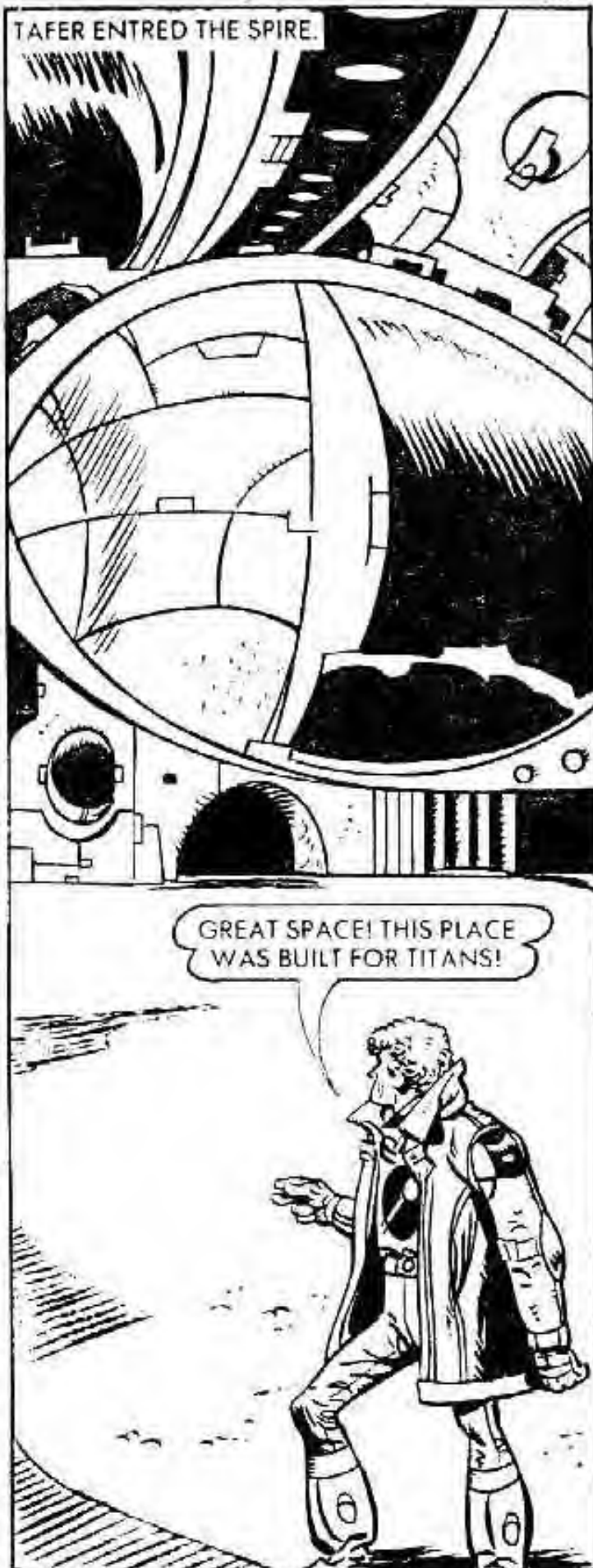
TAHER MADE FOR THE HUGE SPIRE

I ONLY HOPE I CAN OUTRUN THEM!



THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT  
BUT TO KEEP GOING.







THE FIGURE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.



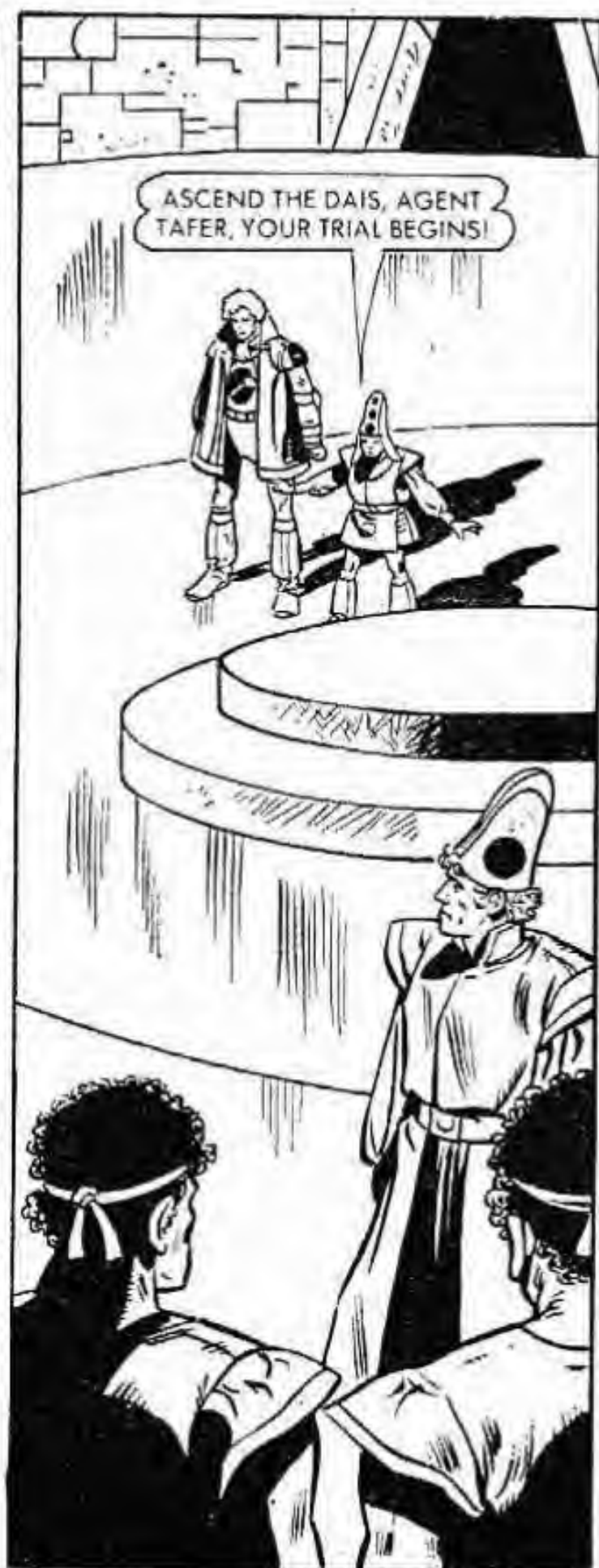
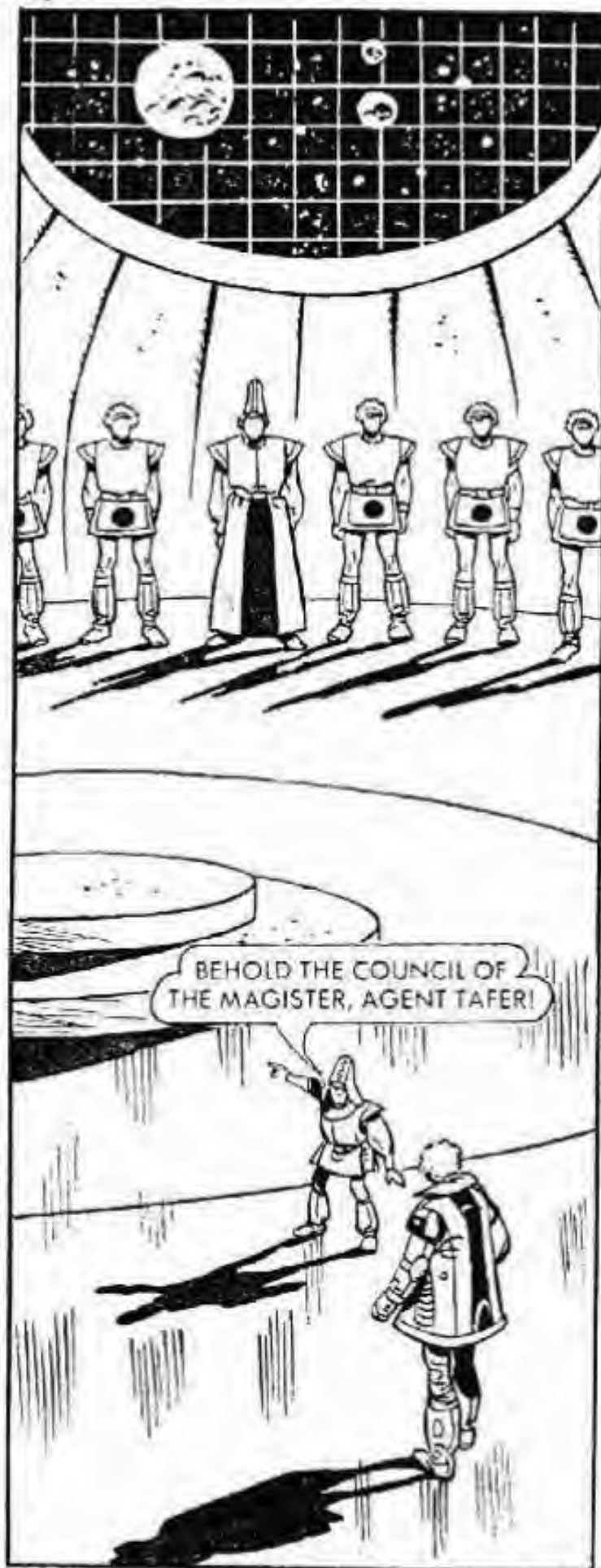
GREAT SPACE! WHERE DID YOU SPRING FROM?



MY NAME IS SERVU. I SERVE THE MAGISTER — THE COUNCIL OF THE VONANS. THEY WOULD SEE YOU. COME!









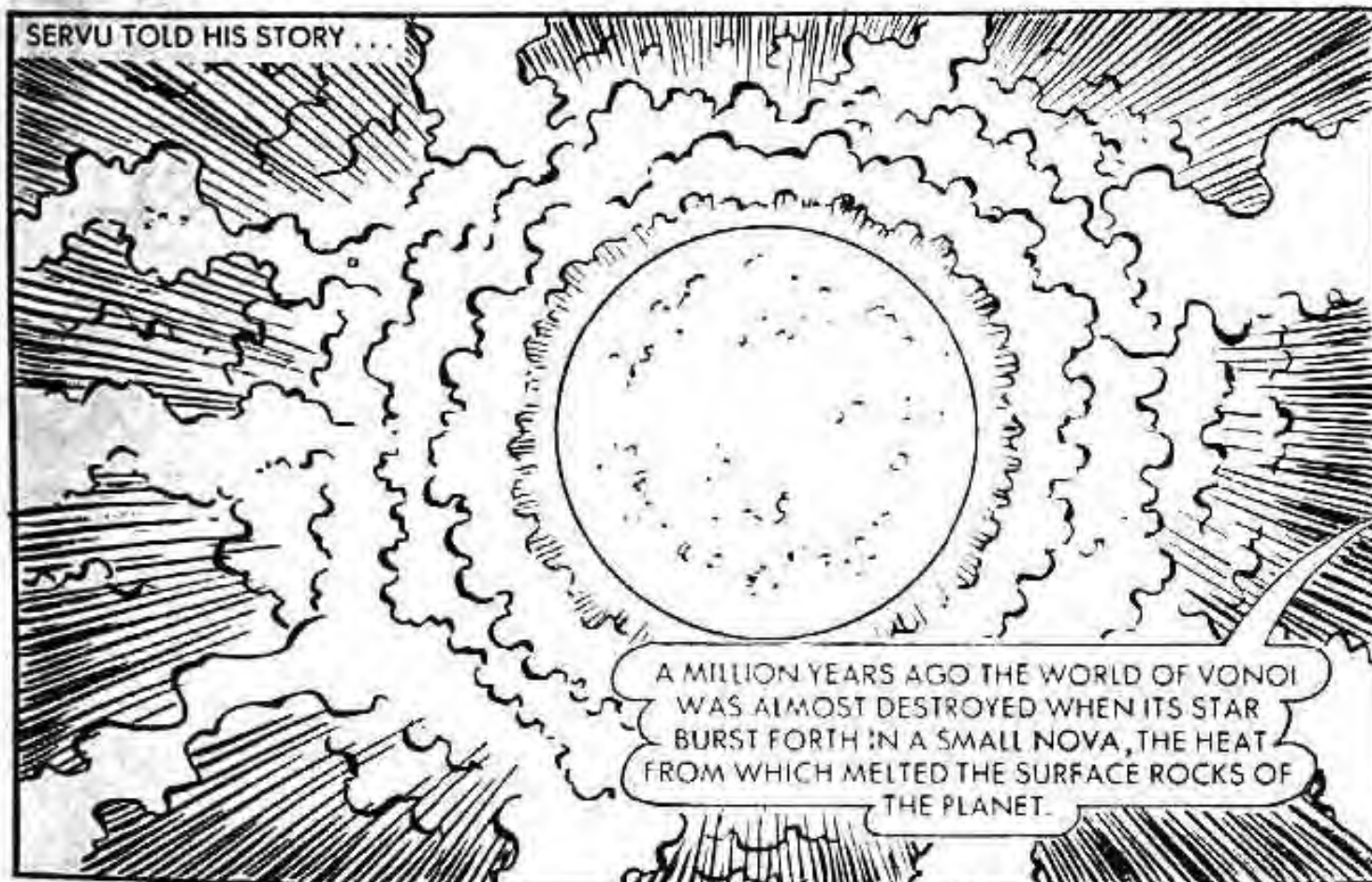




SERVU SET UP A HOLO-AURA WHICH  
ALLOWED A SPOKEN STORY TO BE  
ILLUSTRATED —



SERVU TOLD HIS STORY ...



A MILLION YEARS AGO THE WORLD OF VONOI  
WAS ALMOST DESTROYED WHEN ITS STAR  
BURST FORTH IN A SMALL NOVA, THE HEAT  
FROM WHICH MELTED THE SURFACE ROCKS OF  
THE PLANET.



BU THE VONANS HAD FORESEEN THE TRAGEDY  
AND HAD DUG THEMSELVES CAVES DEEP IN THE  
BOWELS OF THEIR PLANET.







WHEN THEY FINALLY RETURNED TO THE SURFACE  
THEY FOUND IT BURNT CLEAN OF ANY  
SORT OF LIFE. EVEN THE GREAT SEAS AND  
OCEANS OF VONOI HAD BOILED AWAY. WORSE,  
THE VERY EARTH WAS RADIOACTIVE! BUT STILL  
THEY INTENDED TO SURVIVE.



THE MAGISTER SAVED THEM, RAISED THIS  
BUILDING WE CALL CLOUDSPICER...  
PROVIDED SYNTHETIC FOOD AND —





... MASKS! MASKS THAT HELD BUILT-IN  
MONITORS AND MECHANISMS THAT WOULD  
KEEP THEM ALIVE IN THE HELL THAT VONOI  
HAD BECOME. AND MORE THAN THAT —  
MAKE THEM ALMOST IMMORTAL!



THE IMAGES DIED -

SO NOW YOU UNDERSTAND,  
EARTHMAN.

SO THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN JEALOUS OF US!  
YOU HAVE SUFFERED TERRIBLY, BUT THAT GIVES  
YOU NO RIGHT TO DESTROY OTHER WORLDS.



BUT IT DOES, FOR AFTER A MILLION YEARS EVEN THE VONANS ARE NOW DYING, AND THE MAGISTER WHO IS INFALLIBLE HAS DECIDED THAT NO LIVING THING IN ALL THE GALAXY SHALL OUTLAST THEM!



OF COURSE! WITHOUT THEIR MASKS THE VONANS LOOK LIKE CORPSES ALREADY. AS FOR DESTROYING THE GALAXY, IT'S MADNESS. BUT THE MAGISTER MIGHT JUST BE MAD AND POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO IT.



LET ME SEE THE MAGISTER!



YOU ARE NOT WORTHY. NO, YOU SHALL DIE. EVERYTHING SHALL DIE SAVE THE MAGISTER.

TAFER APPEALED TO THE COUNCIL.





SUDDENLY TAHER AND SERVU WERE ALONE —


COME, AGENT TAHER, SENTENCE HAS BEEN PASSED UPON YOU.

THE COUNCIL'S DISAPPEARED! IT WAS A COMPUTER ILLUSION. I SHOULD HAVE REALISED — NO MASKS!

SERVU LED THE WAY.

WE SHALL SOON BE OUTSIDE. THE VONANS WILL KILL YOU QUICKLY AND MERCIFULLY.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!



WE'LL SEE HOW THE MAGISTER LIKES A TASTE OF LASER POWER IN HIS VITALS!

NO, STOP! YOU MUST COME WITH ME!

SERVU STEPPED INTO THE BEAM —

SERVU, YOU'LL BE KILLED!

NOT UNLESS THE MAGISTER WILLS IT!

YOU'RE UNHARMED — TCHAH... STUPID OF ME! OF COURSE YOU'RE AN ILLUSION

OF COURSE! I AM A FORCE FIELD ILLUSION. SO IS CLOUDSPICER. WE ARE BOTH CREATED BY THE MAGISTER WHO IS DEEP IN THE EARTH, FAR BEYOND YOUR PUNY POWERS TO HURT. THE MAGISTER IS TRULY IMMORTAL AND ALL POWERFUL!



AN IDEA FORMED IN TAHER'S MIND

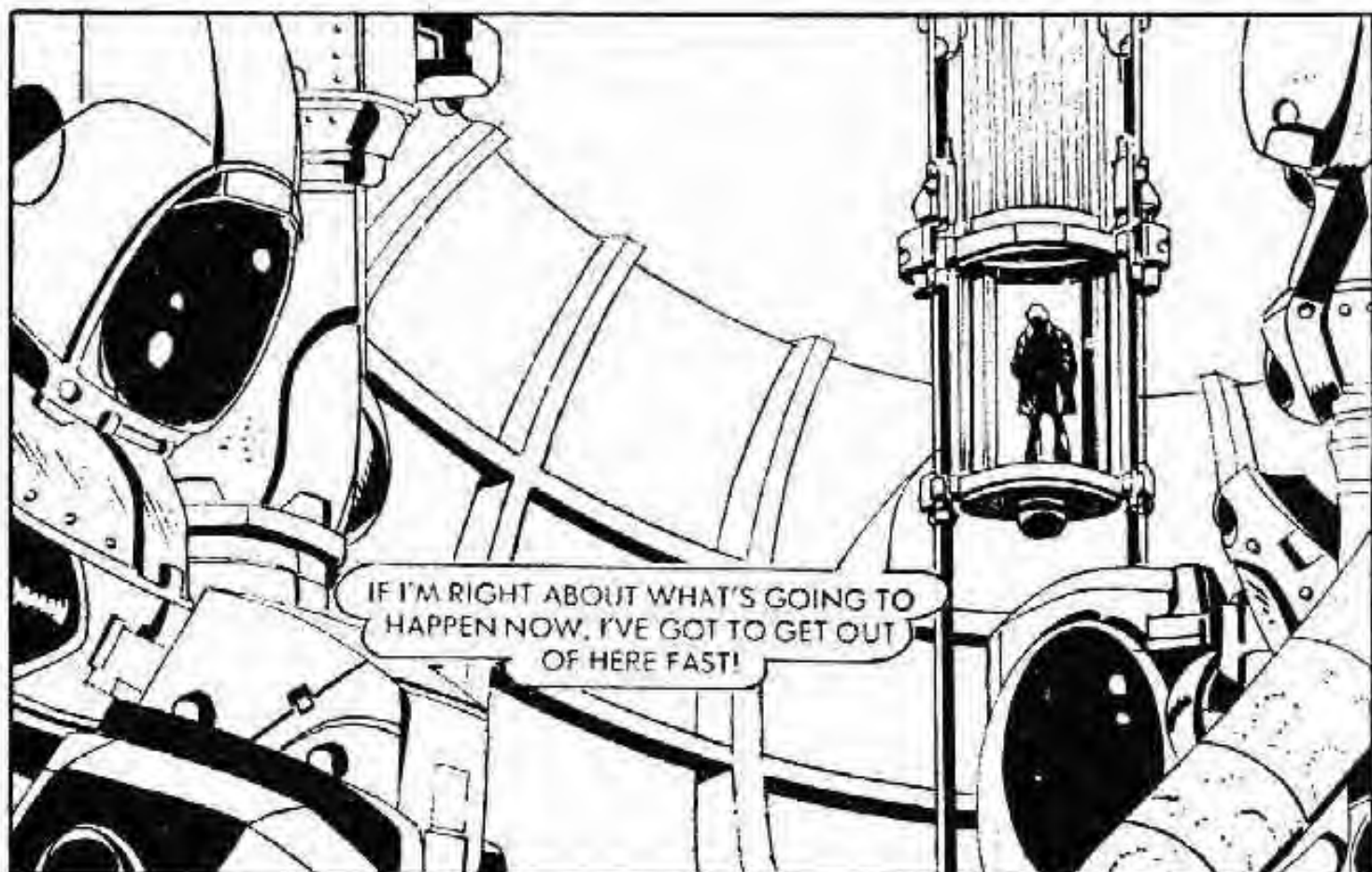
IT'S A MAD COMPUTER I'M DEALING WITH, AND THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!



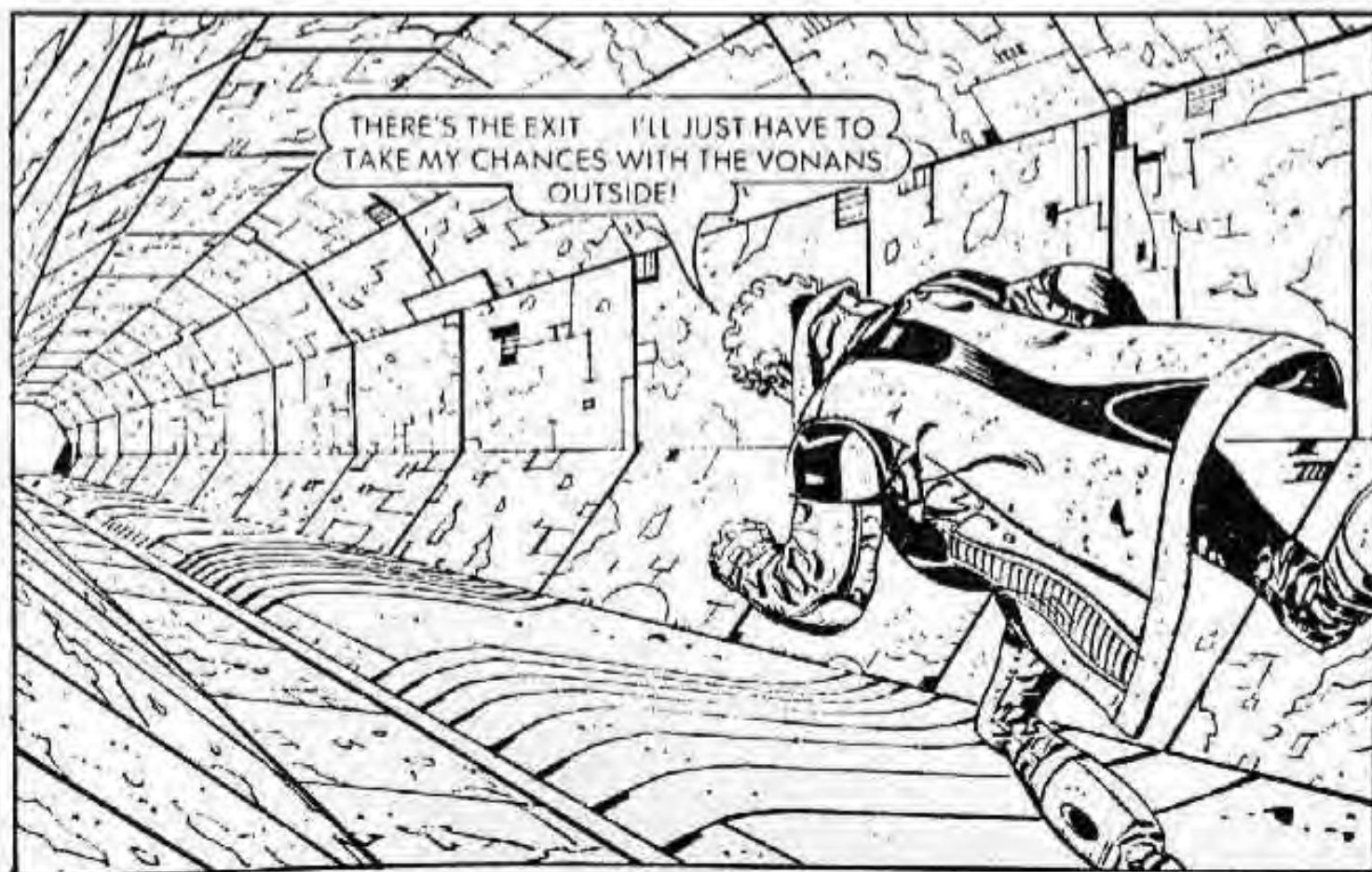
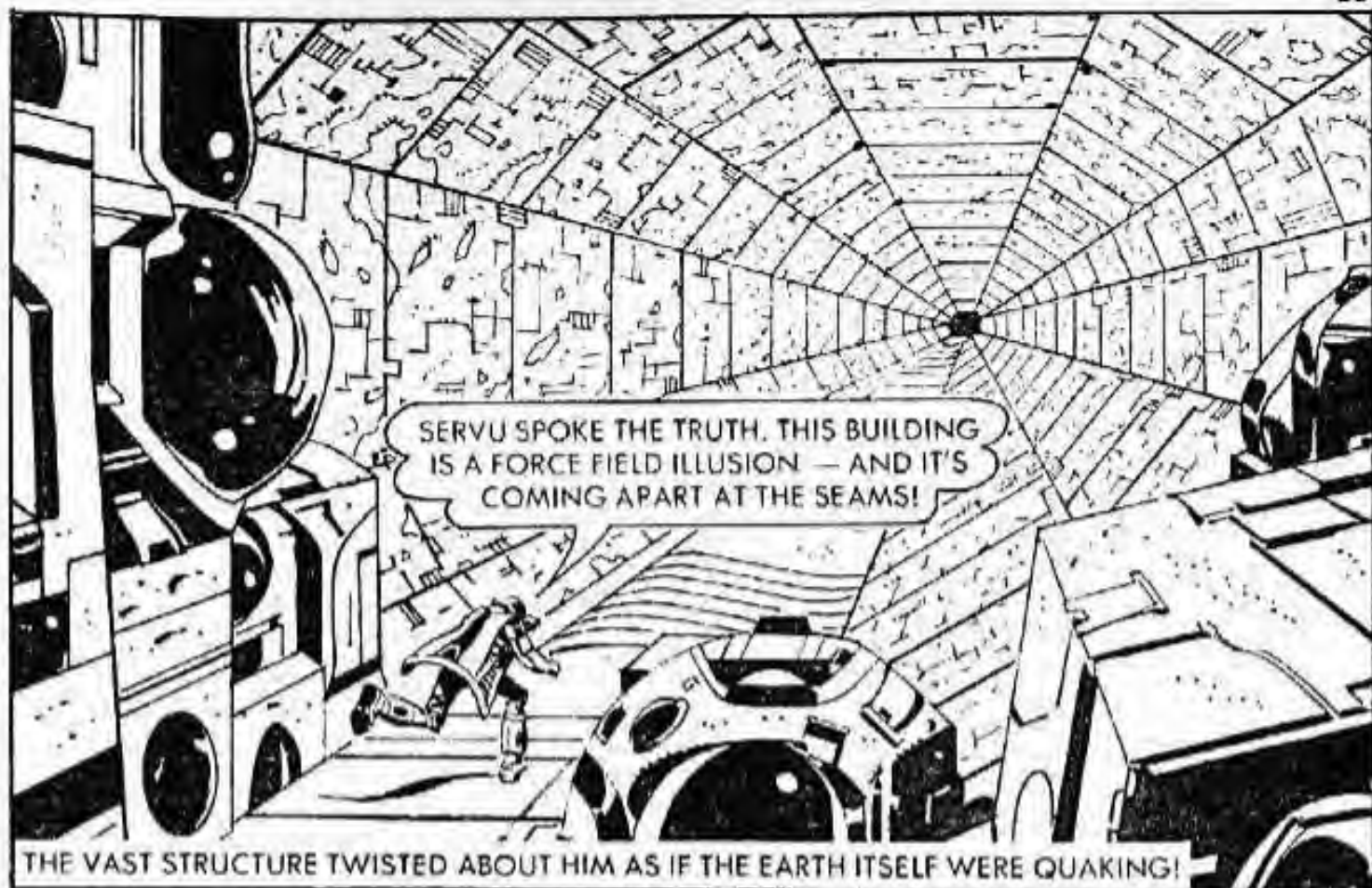




SERVU BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR —







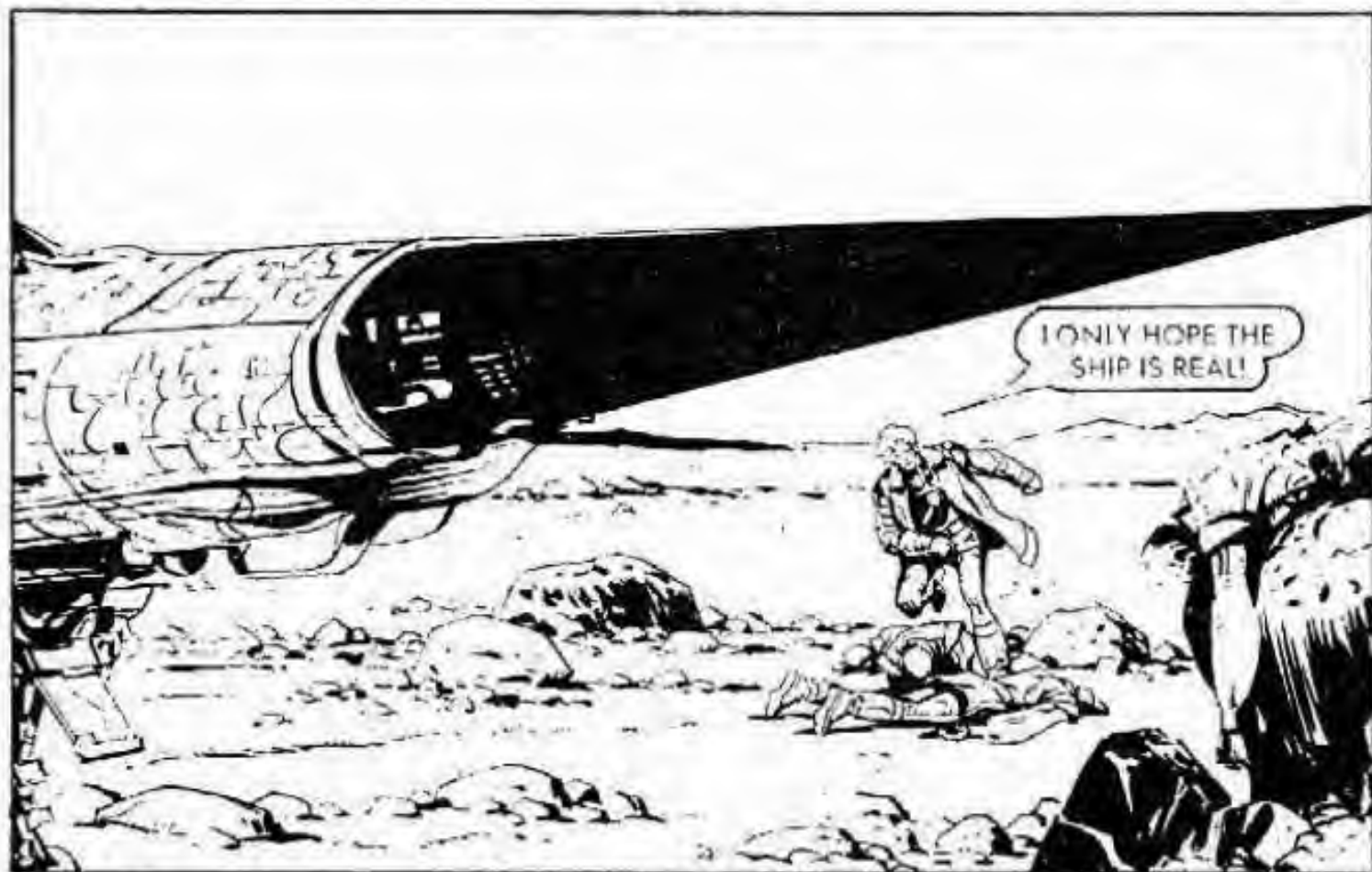


BUT THE VONANS PROVED TO BE NO PROBLEM.

THE MAGISTER CONTROLS THEM VIA  
THEIR FACE MASKS. THEY ARE NOW  
EXPOSED TO DEATH.



I ONLY HOPE THE  
SHIP IS REAL!



BLAZING WHITE HOLES!  
HONEST METAL!



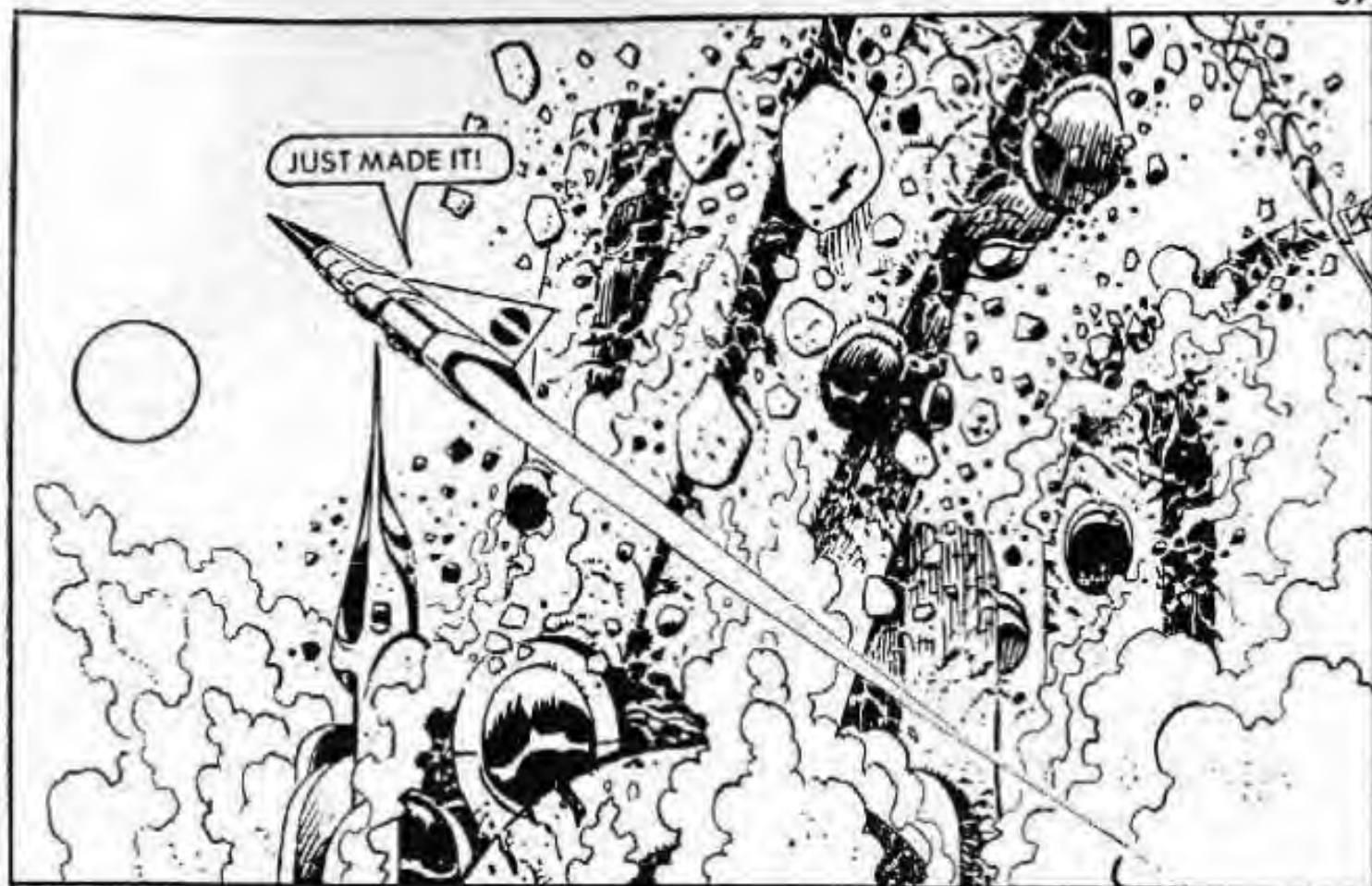
LET'S HOPE SHE'S FUELLED UP.  
I'D BETTER — GREAT SPACE!



TAFER SAW SOMETHING UTTERLY BIZARRE THROUGH THE VISION PORT —













TAFER HEADED FOR INTERSTELLA, AND THE LAST PART OF HIS MISSION.



TAFER REPORTED BACK TO HIS SUPERIOR —



SO, TWO BILLION PEOPLE ON  
XEROS III WILL SURVIVE, BUT A  
COUPLE OF THINGS DON'T ADD UP.



AND WHAT ARE THEY?

THE GOVERNOR OF XEROS III WAS A VONAN, AND YOU DON'T GET THAT FAR WITHOUT HELP. SECONDLY, WHEN I ARRIVED ON VONOI, COURTESY OF THE MISSILE, I WAS EXPECTED. THE ONLY WAY THAT COULD HAVE COME ABOUT WAS IF THE GOVERNOR HAD REPORTED THAT I HAD EVADED DEATH TO HIS SUPERIOR.











TAFER ELIMINATED THE HEAD VONAN, AND IT ONLY REMAINED FOR HIM TO ROUND UP THE FEW OTHERS BEFORE PEACE WAS ESTABLISHED.



**DON'T FORGET THIS**  
**MONTH'S** *OTHER*

# **STARBLAZER** 22¢

SPACE ROLE-PLAYING GAME IN PICTURES No. 152



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# STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN

85

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**Grechko, a previous cosmonaut entered space on December 10, 1977 in Soyuz 26. The mission was led by Lieutenant Colonel Yuri V. Romanenko (left), 33, Air Force. The mission lasted 96 days 10 hours. Romanenko also flew Soyuz 38 on September 18, 1980, for 7 days 20 hours 43 minutes.**